The South 40

Weather alters price patterns

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

Dave Kenyon, Virginia Tech economist, says "Normal price patterns are altered in crop years when poor weather reduces crop size." He says, "Farmers can easily make incorrect pricing decisions in 1983-84 that will be costly in terms of low prices or opportunities missed."

Looking back at 1974 and 1980, use declined as prices increased. 80% of the corn and soybean meal is consumed as feed by hogs and poultry.

In normal production years, prices are usually lowest at harvest and increase during the marketing year. However, in short crop years, prices often peak during or immediately after harvest and then decline. This occurs because the high prices make livestock feeding unprofitable. As animal numbers drop, the demand for feed drops, and prices decline.

Kenyon warns farmers to guard against unrealistic price expectations and consider carefully the wisdom of storing a large portion of their 1983 crop based on the expectation of higher grain prices next spring.

* * *

Aflatoxin can be a problem with this year's grain crop. One report from this county indicates a level of 270 ppb. This is too high for dairy cattle or pregnant sows, but could be blended with aflatoxin free corn for other classes of livestock.

* * *

This is probably a good winter to make sure you aren't trying to maintain cows and worms on limited rations.

Feeding trials using good and low quality forages showed on good forage the dry matter digestibility was reduced by 50% and fiber digestibility dropped 26%. When poor quality forage was fed, the crude protein digestibility fell to zero. This could be interpreted to suggest that good quality forage may not maintain wormy cows even if it has an adequate protein and energy content.

* * *

Some recent work says that it takes 150-200 lbs. of nitrogen to produce the same amount of tall fescue or orchardgrass as good clover-grass mixture, but cows on the mixture will produce 4 to 6 lbs. more milk per day than if grazing pure grass.

Planting corn behind a 3 to 4 year alfalfa stand produces as much corn as applying 100-150 pounds nitrogen per acre to continuous corn.

* * *

Two years ago a study was made in Louisiana to evaluate losses when large bales were stored under varying conditions. They used ryegrass in the study.

Six methods of storage were used. Four bales were stored (1) on a gravel bed, (2) directly on the ground, (3) on elevated wooden racks with plastic covers and (4) without plastic covers (5) on automobile tires and (6) inside a barn. The gravel bed was about 8 inches deep. The wooden racks were built by placing four treated posts in the ground in an 18 x 36 inch rectangle and nailing a 1 x 6 inch treated board, 18 inches long, to two posts on each side to form a support 16 inches above the ground.

Two bales from each storage method were weighed, measured and analyzed for quality after 7 months. One of these was sliced open to examine interior spoilage and then ground in a hammer mill for use in digestion trails with sheep. The remaining bale was used in feeding trials to determine animal refusal when fed in a round bale feeder. The other two bales remained in storage for another five months.

During the first seven months they recorded 20 inches of rainfall and another 29 during the final five months. A total of 43 - which is the average for Appomattox County.

Results: The volume or shrinkage was highest for bales stored on ground 50%, bales on gravel 37%, tires 32%, racks without cover 30%, protected bales on racks 18%, bales in barn 14%.

Dry matter loss: bales on ground 40%, bales on tires 33%, on gravel and rack 32%, rack with cover 11% and barn 9%.

Total loss which includes the sum of handling, dry matter and refusal losses during the first seven months of storage was: ground 65%, gravel 50%, tires 43%, rack 38%, rack with cover 14% and barn 3.5%.

It was concluded that ryegrass hay under these conditins should be stored off the ground and protected from rain during outside storage to minimize losses.

* * *

Advisers visit

MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE who visited all Special Education classes on October 13 are pictured above. The group is shown leaving the Appomattox Primary School where Bob Jamerson used the newly installed lift to move him from one level to another. A lift and ramp have also been installed at the Appomattox Elementary School. Ramps are also provied at Appomattox Middle School and Appomattox County High School. Other committees shown are left to right: Mrs. Jean Hesson, Mrs. Henrietta Johnson, Mrs. Amy Nash, Mrs. Judy Tayler, Ms. Eva Moore, Mr. Daniel Davis, Mrs. Mildred Thompson, and Mrs. Denice Cruser. Additional committee members are Mr. Bruce Williams, Miss Terri Barron, Mrs. Brenda Richardson, Mrs. Danny Rogers, Mrs. Wayne Shoemaker, Mrs. Nancy Woods, Mrs. Ann Reynolds, Mrs. Jane Wright, Mrs. Ruby Williamson, and Mrs. Dorinda Saxton.

Happiness is 4-H

By FRANK A. SWEET

All completed 4-H projects are due in the Extension Office by Friday of this week (October 21). These projects will be judged, beginning next week, by committees of Teen Leaders, adults and Extension Agents. Each completed project will be awarded a ribbon and the projects will be returned to the 4-H'ers in November. 4-H members who excell in project work will be recognized at the Annual 4-H Awards Banquet in January.

* * *

The last date to sign up for the Virginia Hunter Safety Course is Monday, Oct. 24. The course will be taught on the evenings of Oct. 25, 26, and 27 beginning at 7 p.m. each evening in the District Extension Office. The Hunter Safety Course includes information on hunter ethics, safety with firearms, hunting attitudes, use of bow hunting equipment and muzzle loaders, and gun handling in the field.

* * *

American Federal Savings and Loan Association will again provide sponsorship for the 4-H Share-the-Fun program. Share-the-Fun provides the young people with the opportunity to develop poise and self-confidence through participation in a talent show. Share-the-Fun programs will be held each afternoon during the week of Nov. 7-11 at Appomattox Elementary School. 4-H'ers will begin signing up to participate in Share-the-Fun this week.

* * *

Teenage 4-H'ers with an interest in leadership are invited to join the 4-H Teen Leaders Club which meets on the first Monday evening of each month at 7 p.m. in the Appomattox Extension Office. Membership in the 4-H Teen Leaders as well as all 4-H Clubs is open to all young people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or political affiliation.

* * *

The Annual State 4-H Volunteer Leaders Conference will be held at the Lynchburg Hilton on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 18 and 19. Registration forms and program details are available from the Extension Office.

Conservation week noted

Governor Robb recently recognized Natural Resources Conservation Week, Oct. 16-22, 1983. The week is sponsored by the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (VASWCD) and the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District.

The aim of the special week, which carries the theme "Natural Resources for Today and Tomorrow," is to educate adult groups, school children and the public about limited natural resources.

ASCS Today

By TOM CONRAD

Dark Fired Markets to Open on December 6, 1983 - The dark fired tobacco markets will open this year on December 6. They will operate three weeks before Christmas, closing for the holiday on December 21. The first two weeks of sales will be on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Again this year there will be two sets of buyers and two sets of graders making for two sales per day. A tentative opening date after Christmas is January 24, 1984 with probably two weeks of sales closing on February 2, 1984.

There have been a lot of dark tobacco farmers in the county to book their tobacco at the ASCS office. The Dark-Fired Tobacco Growers Marketing Association has requested that booking continue until November 1. Those that have booked will receive a notice of sales alloted on or about November 1. This notice will come from the association.

Beginning November 21 growers may call the Lynchburg and Farmville warehouses to confirm their booking. They may also book additional tobacco at this time if space is available.

If there are any questions, contact the ASCS office, Extension office or Dark Fired Tobacco Growers Marketing Association.

The annual membership meeting of the Dark Fired Growers Marketing Association is November 4. The place is the New Randolph Warehouse, Farmville at 2 p.m.

Attention Burley Tobacco Producers

Farmers that produced burley tobacco for 1983 need to stop by the ASCS office to file certain forms so that marketing cards can be obtained. The owner and/or operator or person designated by a power of attorney in the ASCS office can be the only ones to sign the necessary forms and to pick up the marketing cards.

PIK Corn Certificates of Entitlements - Producers should have now received their corn PIK entitlements. Along with the entitlements there was a letter with the address and phone number of Continental warehouse, the location of the corn.

Farmers that want to take physical delivery rather than sell the corn to the warehouse should check with the ASCS office concerning transportation assistance.

Collection set for Saturday

Kenneth and Red Marston will be accepting contributions for the Appomattox County Volunteer Rescue Squad on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at both Reynold's Store and Marston's Store in Red House.

Have you switched?

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WOODMEN OF THE WORLD — RADIO DAY A SUCCESS —

On Saturday, October 1st the Woodmen of the World, Camp 71 in Appomattox held its 3rd annual Radio Day in conjunction with WTTX AM/FM. The purpose of the project is twoaaist in supporting the many, fraternal and community activities of the Woomen in this area. To radio station WTTX AM/FM and its staff, we appreciate your efforts and support in making this event a reality. Listed below are the many citizens and businesses that were a part in making the event successful and to them, the Woodmen say "Many Thanks."

Allen Austin Photography
Allied Community Pharmacy
American Federal Savings & Loan (Appomattox)
Appomattox Data Systems
Appomattox Dairy Supply Co.
Appomattox Hardware Co.
Appomattox Office Supply
Appomattox Oil Company
Appomattox Radio & TV
Appomattox Rexall Drug Store
Appomattox Truck & Tractor
Armstrong Furniture
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Clayton C. Bryant Land Co.
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Everette Moore Excavating
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Frasier's Furniture & Appliance
Freedom Baptist Church
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Hackett's Chain Saw Sales
H. B. Moore, Jr. Trucking Co., Inc.
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Jamerson Brothers Trucking Co.
J. L. Jamerson & Sons
J. L. Sears & Co.
Jeanne's Restaurant
Jim Nelms Associates, Inc.
Joe Vaughan Photography
Jumbo Restaurant
Lynchburg Ford
Legnet Green Farm
Mac's Lawn & Garden Equipment
Marshall's Dept. Store
Martin Grass Nursery
Moore Bros. Funeral Service
Moore's Electric & Welding
Morris Garage
Moses Motor Co.
Oakville Farm Supply
Omar Jamerson & Sons
Pumpkin & Appomattox Exxon Service Center
Pumpkin City Branch Bank
Pizza Hut (Appomattox)
Pro Hardware Co.
Quick-I-Food Store
R.C. & A.C. Martin Crosstie
Reeves Drug
R & R Grocery
R & R Cherokee Ranch
Robinson Funeral Home
Sentry Oak Farm
Shoe Store (Appomattox)
State Farm Insurance
Stephen's Fashions
Times-Virginian Newspaper
Times-Virginian Printing Corp.
The Heritage Inn Restaurant
T & H Market
Talley's, Inc.
Traveller's Inn Motel
Virginia Fibre Corp.
Webb's Tire Co.
Western Auto Associate Store
White's Auto Store
Wilbur's Supermarket
W. Frank Moore, Inc.
W.A.W. - Surf Clapp
W. W. Dickerson, Land Surveyor

Steve Marshall and Richard Martin

Carroll Goodrich and Floyd Fleshman

Sammy Carter and Don Hudson

Clayton Martin and Allen Austin

Earl Clapp and Harry Lawson

Ronnie Spiggle and James Ford

Marvin House and Joe Vaughan

Rev. Robert Williams

Mike Elliott

Cecil Deaner and Gregg Martin

Ben Wheeler and Johnny Canada

VOTE NOVEMBER 8

THOMAS W. LAWSON
FOR
Commonwealth Attorney

I consider it an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Appomattox County. Your support and vote is sincerely appreciated.

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Choc. Chip, Double Choc., Oatmeal Raisin Cookie MIX Duncan Hines $1.19
Peanut Butter, Golden Sugar Cookie MIX Duncan Hines $1.09
Bran (3.75 oz.) or Wild Blueberry (13 oz.) Muffin MIX Duncan Hines $1.19
Spicy Apple or Banana Nut... Muffin MIX Duncan Hines 11.5-OZ. PKG. $1.09
CRISCO OIL ..... 32-OZ. BOT. $1.49
ARMOUR POTTED MEAT ..... 4 3-OZ. CANS $1.00
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HOT or MILD JAMESTOWN SAUSAGE 1-LB. PKG. 79¢
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NO-SALT SPINACH .... 15-OZ. CAN 55¢
IN IT'S OWN JUICE...SLICED, CRUSHED, CHUNK, TID-BITS PINEAPPLE ... 15¼-OZ. CAN 69¢
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REG. $1.19...3 VARS. 1-LB PATATO CHIPS ... 7-OZ. BAG 79¢
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HUNT'S Tomato SAUCE ..... 15-OZ. CAN 49¢
HUNT'S Tomato PASTE ..... 12-OZ. CAN $1.69
RICHFOOD Lawn & Leaf BAGS .... 10 CT. PKG. $1.49